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Typhoon mudslide kills 400

by GARY NICKS
MORE than 400 people are feared dead after their village was buried in a mudslide triggered by Typhoon Morakot. Soldiers rescued 130 people in remote Shao Lin in Taiwan after houses, roads and bridges were swept away in flash floods. But hundreds more are believed to have perished. Lin Chien-chung, one of the few survivors, said: "A part of the mountain above us just fell on the village."

Pictures: AP & BARCROFT MEDIA

£5m LOTTO LETS GIPSIES SET UP ILLEGAL CAMPS

Fury over lessons to take on planners

by TOM SAVAGE and EMMA WALL
GIPSIES have been handed £5million Lotto cash to help them beat planning laws.

The money was dished out by the Big Lottery Fund which awards money to "good causes". But last night there was anger as the amount they had given to travellers' groups was revealed.

Much of the cash was spent teaching community workers about gipsy culture and their needs.

Travellers were also trained in how to get round the planning process to help with their "site provision" requirements.

Barmy

Other barmy schemes included confidence building, media training, assertiveness coaching and the provision of self-help groups.

Healthy lifestyle tips, days out, play buses, activities like metal work, and advocacy services, were also funded.

Add an award was given to gipsy magazine, Travellers Time, to make it bigger and in full colour.

Tory Shadow Minister for Local Government Bob Neill said: "People will be shocked that Lottery cash meant for good causes like sport and charities has been given to travellers to help them sidestep planning rules. This is just another sign of how the



PITCH BATTLE: Travellers are being helped to foil planning laws

Labour Government snubs hard-working families who play by the rules and pay their taxes.

Examples include cash given to the Brent Irish Advisory Service in 2004 to pay for training days in "assertiveness, negotiation and participation".

The Derbyshire Gipsy Liaison Group also got funds for a project to give travellers "meaningful input into the planning policies". The report added: "Training will

enable those more able and willing to attend and contribute to council meetings."

Last night a spokesman for the Big Lottery Fund said they "don't exclude any minority group from applying for funding".

He added that the £4.76m allocated "to initiatives that have benefited gipsies and travellers" was 0.2% of total funding over that period.

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